

02-277

From: Kara McLaughlin
To: Mike Powell
Date: Fri, Apr 18, 2003 7:12 PM
Subject: my part in democracy

Mr. Powell,

I am disturbed that the FCC will be voting this June 2nd about media regulations that will affect all Americans profoundly, especially on their ability to partake in our democracy, and that you have not made concerted efforts to publicize this vote to the owners of the airways, the public! If it is the public's "property" should not the public be privy to this information that will directly affect them (including myself)?

I implore you to do what you were nominated to do, protect the public and our national airways, that are vital lifelines to our democracy.
Thank you.

A concerned owner,
Kara McLaughlin

From: Jonathan Winder
To: Mike Powell
Date: Fri, Apr 18, 2003 2:30 PM
Subject: Biennial Review

Dear Chairman Powell,

I just read your letter to members of Congress on the FCC website regarding your Commission's Biennial Review.

I must say I am surprised to hear you claim that your review of the American public was comprehensive, since I had not heard anything about this review before reading your comment, since, as far as I am aware, this public comment period was never mentioned in any of the major mass media.

Be that as it may, whether or not your review was thorough and comprehensive or not, I am highly concerned at the notion that regulations regarding media monopolization could well be liberalized as a result of this review. This country was built on democracy which means, for example, that Americans are guaranteed the right to hear diverse sources of international, national, and local news as well as entertainment and cultural programming.

This is a diverse nation with many diverse viewpoints and it deserves a media market that serves its diverse needs. If large media companies are allowed to monopolize local markets the very essence of American democracy is threatened. The more this country moves towards media monopolization the more we approach a totalitarian state, albeit by private, rather than statist, means.

What of the anti-trust tradition of this country? What of free speech? What of a free and open democracy in which citizens have the right and privilege to enjoy hearing a diverse source of information so that they may make sound and well-informed decisions. Allowing the largest and wealthiest individuals and companies to control the media in certain areas stifles civic education and enlightenment and severely curtails our democracy.

You have a heavy responsibility to guarantee Americans their liberty and their democracy over the airwaves. I trust that you will keep the airwaves free and democratic by keeping anti-monopoly legislation in place.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Winder
Newtown Square, PA

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